



FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

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Aloha Shipmates!

I want to start this month's letter by saying congratulations to the more than 3,500 Shipmates who were selected for advancement to Chief Petty Officer this year. I won't dwell on the CPO Selectees too long, but I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to recognize this career milestone and wish them success during this year's CPO Induction season.

Over the years I have observed many CPO Inductions, both as a young Sailor watching the Selectees and later as a member of the CPO Mess guiding them through the process of becoming a Chief. Now, as your Fleet Master Chief, I have the honor and privilege of meeting thousands of these soon-to-be Chiefs while traveling around the theater performing my duties.

I say it is an honor to meet them, because these men and women represent the future of our Navy as they become the enlisted leaders who will carry on the CPO tradition of training and leading Sailors, so please take a moment of your time to congratulate them on their selection for CPO.

Around this time of year, I also get a lot of questions from aspiring Sailors asking what it takes to become a Chief Petty Officer or from disappointed First Classes wondering why the Board didn't select them. Much as I would like to, there's no way I can address each individual case, but I will share with you a few pieces of wisdom I've learned over the years.

The first among these is being proactive in your career. One of the most common mistakes I see is Sailors waiting until the last minute to prepare for their next promotion. I firmly believe that you shouldn't just be looking ahead to the next paygrade, but rather you should be planning now for the next 2-3 promotions. In today's Navy advancing to Chief, or any rank for that matter, requires planning and preparation. Waiting until the last minute to study for an exam, review your service record, or complete a qualification or college degree just increases your chance of not being ready when the time comes.

I also encourage you to seek advice. You always hear about the common themes like sustained superior performance, diversity in duty assignments and proven leadership at sea, but that's just the starting point and there are a lot more things that can help give you an edge over your competitors. If you don't know where to start or what else you could be doing, there's an article on the Navy Personnel Command website that discusses this very topic. You can find it at www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/organization/npc/publicaffairs/Pages/PathtoChiefPettyOfficerPavedwithManyFactors.aspx. Your next step should be to take a look around your command and see what resources are available. I'd bet a month of the MCPON's pay that you'll find a Master Chief who's participated in a selection board, or a Chief or Senior Chief who can give you some sound guidance.

Of course, all your preparation and research is for naught if you're not around to reap the benefits, and that brings me to my final piece of advice for today. I don't want to leave you on a negative note but I feel compelled, as one Shipmate to another, to ask you to take care of yourselves. You may not be aware of it, but we've been losing Shipmates at an alarming rate this summer. Since the beginning of summer, we've lost 14 Sailors in fatal mishap. Most of these accidents have involved motor vehicles, and motorcycle accidents have accounted for more than half of the total deaths. Now, I know accidents happen and sometimes you just can't avoid them no matter how careful you are, but in many cases they can be avoided by applying common sense and thinking before we act. So I'm asking you to please be safe out there Shipmates. Don't do it for the Navy or for your friends and family; do it for yourself. Most of us have long lives yet to live and I sincerely hope we all get to stick around and enjoy them!

Thanks for your time Shipmates, and Thanks for All You Do!

Very Respectfully,
Fleet Minyard

For the Record

Feds Feed Families

August 30 will mark the end of the 2011 "Feds Feed Families" food drive, and your last chance of the year to help Americans in need through food donations to the FFF program. As of Aug. 4 Commander, Navy Installations Command announced the Department of the Navy had collected 578,544 pounds of food, nearly three times its goal. DoD's total goal for 2011 was 733,800 pounds of food, and with a strong push all the way to the end, the Navy may be able to reach that goal by itself. Open up your cupboards and contact your local representative to see how you can make this year's Feds Feed Families program a true success!

DADT Repeal

On July 29, the Chief of Naval Operations released NAVADMIN 231/11 providing guidance following the presidential signing of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal provision. The president, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certified to congress on July 22 that all of the military services are ready for repeal in a manner consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the armed forces. Additional implementation guidance will be provided upon repeal of DADT on Sept. 20.

On the Horizon

Applications to the Command Master Chief and Command Senior Chief selection board are due no later than Dec. 1. Master chief's applying for the CMC program must not have more than 26 years of service, and CSC application must have no more than 22 years of service. Guidelines on completing and submitted packages can be found in OPNAV Instruction 1306.2F, Command Master Chief Program, and all packages must include a letter of endorsement from the member's current commanding officer, command master chief and force master chief. CMC/CSC application forms can be downloaded at <https://navalforms.daps.dla.mil/web.public/home>.

Naval Education And Training Professional Development And Technology Center is looking for Chief's (E7 to E9) on active duty, Full-Time Support or Reservists on ADSW orders to serve as exam writers for Advancement Examination Development Conferences Oct. 2011 through April 2012. These subject matter experts, provided by fleet and shore-based commands, review and develop rating advancement exams. NETPDTC will review applications and notify selected volunteers no later than 45 days prior to the beginning of the conference. Applications are available on NKO under the career management tab by selecting Navy Advancement Center, or check NAVADMIN 217/11 for full details.



110808-N-VE260-488 ATSUGI, Japan (Aug. 8, 2011) U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief John T. Minyard holds a question and answer session with Sailors assigned to the aviation intermediate maintenance department at Naval Air Facility Atsugi. Minyard is visiting all installations throughout the Pacific Fleet to assess the climate of each command and address Sailors' concerns. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin Smelley)

BRAVO ZULU

Spirit of Hope Award

CTR1(IDW/SG/SW/AW) Jamar J. Salters
Navy Information Operations Command,
Hawaii



Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award

Superior Performance In Intra-Type
Battle Efficiency
USS Patriot (MCM 7)



Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy Award

Pacific Fleet
USS Tortuga (LSD 46)



Scuttlebutt

Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

Issue: We had hoped to transfer this summer before the new school year started, but it just didn't work out for us. What can we do to make finding and enrolling our children in a new school easier?

Answer: Sorry things didn't work out the way you hoped, Shipmate, but you can still turn your PCS into a great success for your children at their new school. The most recent Familygram released by the Chief of Naval Operations in NAVADMIN 236/11 is dedicated to focusing on the new school year and provides some excellent information that can help you make sound decision about your children and spouse's education. I suggest your read Familygram 04-11 for more detailed information, but I can summarize a few of the points for you.

If you are transferring to a Navy command, one of the first things you'll want to do is a little research on the Navy's Child and Youth Program. You can find out more about the CYP program by visiting their website at <https://qol.navyaims.net/CYPWeb/Web/Home/Home.aspx>. The CYP site will provide you links to programs and services available at Navy bases around the world. While you're there's look for a link that will give you information on the School Liaison Officer program and points of contact at your next duty stations. SLOs work with parents, commands and local school communities to facilitate the best education possible for military children. If you happen to be going to a joint command or a military installation owned by one of our sister services, there's a DoD education site at www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu that offers similar resources. Good luck at your next duty station, Shipmate.

For more News and Information about U.S. Pacific Fleet visit:

<http://www.cpf.navy.mil>

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/compacflt/>

<http://www.facebook.com/USPacificFleet>

<http://www.youtube.com/USPacificFleet>

